four years in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh alongwith the monthly income of such persons who are treated as employed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Against a target of 11.00 Lakhs, 10.87 Lakhs cumulative employment were created upto the year 1999-2000. Since the year 2000-2001 is yet to be over, achievement for the year 2000-2001 can not be given at this stage.

(b) Against a target of 45000 employment till 1999-2000, a total of 39776 employments have been created in 2463 villages till 31.03.2000. Information regarding monthly income of beneficiaries is not maintained.

Funds for Drought Victims of Kutch

†*67. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Government's reaction towards the news published under the title "Kutch ke sukha piriton ke liye Kendra se bheji gayi sahayata rashi ka koi ata pata nahi" in the Punjab Kesri dated 18th June, 2000;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against the persons who are involved in such a scam; and

(d) if no inquiry has been conducted in this regard, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (d) It is primarily the responsibility of the Government of the State to undertake necessary relief measures and distribution of relief assistance, in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of Gujarat has informed that they had constituted an Empowered Cabinet Sub-committee to decide policy issues. Likewise, District Level Committees for scarcity were also constituted for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

affected districts. According to them, expenditure on relief measures is carried out as per Government Resolutions issued by the State Government and that there is no possibility of misuse or improper use of relief assistance. Hence there is no question of any inquiry. The State Government had reportedly carried out a number of relief activities in Kutch district which include opening of grass depots, employment under scarcity related works, payment of cash doles, opening of cattle camps/gaushalas/panjrapoles, payment of cattle subsidy and nutrition programme by way of sukhadi groundnut gram jaggery distribution scheme.

Indian Nationals in Foreign Jails

*68. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian soldiers and citizens are impriosoned in foreign jails since long;

(b) if so, the number of Indian soldiers and citizens still imprisoned in foreign jails, country-wise;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to get them released immediately; and

(d) the number of Indian soldiers and citizens released from foreign jails as a result of the efforts made by Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) According to Government's information, at present there are 54 Indian soldiers and 6032 other Indian citizens imprisoned in various foreign countries. A country-wise break-up of these imprisoned Indian nationals and those so far released from foreign jails is given the annexed Statement. (See below)

As soon as an Indian diplomatic Mission/Post is informed of the arrest of an Indian national, a request is made to the host Government for seeking counsular access. An officer of the Mission/Post visits the detainee to ascertain the circumstances leading to the arrest. Where necessary, the Mission/Post takes up the matter with the host Government for speedy and fair trial and also for review of